

USPN 10/699,586
Group Art Unit: 3739
Docket No. 151-P-11200US01

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for making a hole of a first predetermined diameter in a dura of a patient for the insertion of a catheter having a second predetermined diameter, comprising:

a catheter having a lumen;

a stylet having a first end adapted for insertion in said lumen;

said stylet having a second end formed with a tip having a hemispherical shape with a diameter having a predetermined relationship with approximately equal to said first predetermined diameter; and

means for applying an electrical current to said tip of said stylet to cauterize said dura;

wherein said first predetermined diameter is not greater than said second predetermined diameter.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said first predetermined diameter is approximately equal to said second predetermined diameter.
7. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said first predetermined diameter is smaller than said second predetermined diameter.

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8. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 7 wherein said first predetermined diameter is approximately fifteen percent (15%) percent smaller than said second diameter.
9. (Original) A method of making a hole of a first predetermined diameter in a dura of a patient having a cranium for the insertion of a catheter having a second predetermined diameter, comprising the steps of:

determining whether to create a burr hole in said cranium of said patient;

inserting a first end of said stylet with a tip having a hemispherical shape with a diameter having a predetermined relationship with approximately equal to said first predetermined diameter into said burr hole of said cranium, wherein said first predetermined diameter is not greater than said second predetermined diameter;

applying an electrical current to said stylet in order to cauterize said dura creating a hole in said dura approximately equal to said diameter of said tip; and

inserting a second end of said stylet into a lumen of a catheter with said second end of said stylet proximal to a distal end of said catheter.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Original) A method as in claim 9 wherein said first predetermined diameter is approximately equal to said second predetermined diameter.
14. (Original) A method as in claim 9 wherein said first predetermined diameter is smaller than said second predetermined diameter.
15. (Original) A method as in claim 14 wherein said first predetermined diameter is approximately fifteen percent (15%) smaller than said second diameter.